

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings. The parts of Fig. 5 have been labeled Fig. 5A, 5B, and 5C pursuant to the Examiner's requirement. A sheet showing the changes marked in red and a replacement sheet with the changes are attached hereto.

REMARKS

I. Reconsideration of the objections the specification, drawings and claims 4-12 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended the specification at page 1, lines 5 – 6 to delete the phrase “according to the pre-characterizing portion of claims 1 and 13.” The specification has further been amended at page 3, line 4, to delete the phrase “, with the features of the characterized portion of claim 1.”

The parts of Fig. 5 have been labeled 5A, 5B and 5C, as requested.

The multiple dependencies in the claims have been removed in order to overcome the objection.

Applicants submit that such amendments to the specification, drawings, and claims overcome the objections. It is respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

II. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 – 4, 13 and 14 under U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13 to delete the phrase “in particular”. Claim 13 has been further amended to recite that the surface of the friction lining “ rising or falling” in the radial direction.

Applicants submit that such amendments to the claims overcome the section 112 rejection. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

III. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1 – 3, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), over the Loeffler U.S. Patent No. 1,810,360, and claims 1 and 2, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), over the

Staub U.S. Patent No. 4,287,978 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the raised surface has a spring characteristic. (See Specification, page 9; Fig. 6.) Neither the Loeffler nor Staub references disclose this feature. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the section 102(b) rejections based on the cited references be withdrawn.

IV. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the Wemp U.S. Patent No. 2,038,016 reference, and claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the Gamble U.S. Patent No. 1,883,682 reference is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 has been amended to recite that the surface of the friction lining rising or falling in the radial direction. (See Specification, page 5; Fig. 1.) Neither the Wemp nor the Gamble references disclose this feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the section 102(b) rejections based on the cited references be withdrawn.

V. Dependent claims 1 – 7, 10 - 12 and new claims 16 - 20 are patentably distinct.

Dependent claims 1 – 7, 10 - 12 and new claims 16 - 20 are patentably distinct. The features of these claims are not disclosed by the art of record. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims be allowed.

In view of the amendments to the drawings, the specification and claims and

the arguments presented herein, Applicants submit that the present invention is in condition for allowance and a favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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& PORCELLO CO., L.P.A.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles R. Schaub".

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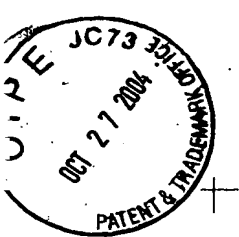


Fig. 4

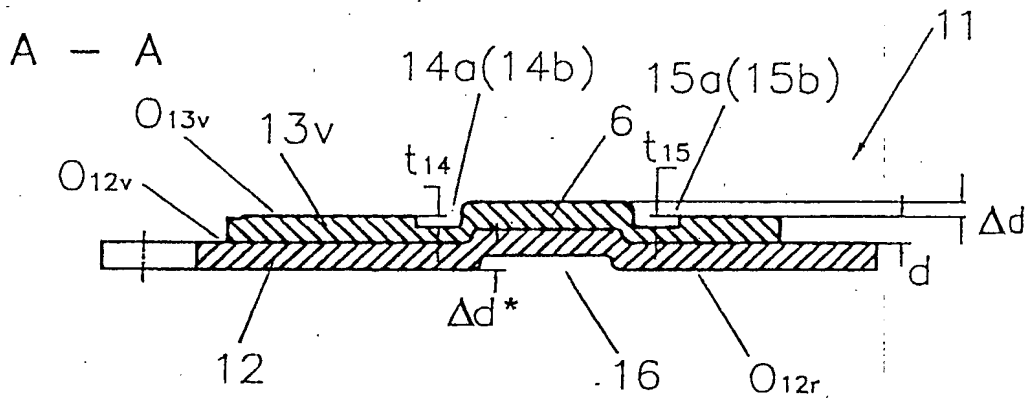


Fig. 5A

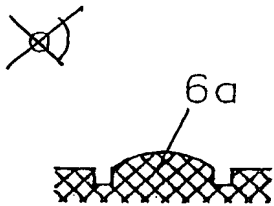


Fig. 5B

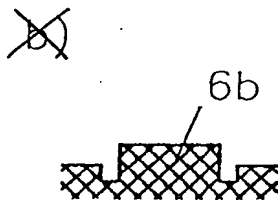


Fig. 5C

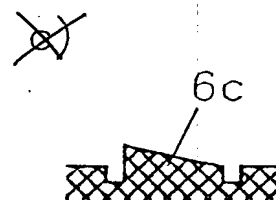


Fig. 6

